

Strengthening the Legislative Branch: Possible Reforms to Enhance Policy and Budget Development

Senate and Assembly Select Committees on Improving State Government
October 22, 2009

9:00 AM–12:30 PM – Possible Legislative Branch Reforms

Lunch Break 12:30–1:15 PM

1:15–4:30 PM – Possible Budget Process Reforms – "Part One"
Room 4202, State Capitol

Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) and Assembly member Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) will convene the first joint hearing of each house's Select Committee on Improving State Government. Senate President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass formed the bipartisan select committees in September to address the pressing need for state governmental reform. The committees will jointly host five hearings at various locations throughout the state.

Panelists:

- **Bill Lockyer**, State Treasurer and former President Pro Tem of the California State Senate
- **Robert Naylor**, former Republican Leader, California State Assembly
- **Laura Chick**, Inspector General of California, former Los Angeles City Controller
- **Mac Taylor**, Legislative Analyst of California
- **William Hauck**, Chairman, California Constitution Revision Commission
- **Fred Silva**, Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor, California Forward and former Executive Secretary, California Constitution Revision Commission
- **Bruce Cain**, Executive Director, U.C. Washington Center and former Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California at Berkeley
- **Scott Pattison**, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers
- **Jaime Regalado**, Director, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs in Los Angeles

I. Introductory Remarks by Chairs and Ranking Minority Members (9:00-9:10)

- Review by Chairs of the Joint Select Committees' process, including upcoming hearings

MORNING SESSION – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH REFORM DISCUSSION

II. Reform Efforts in California (9:10-9:30)

- Review of past efforts at reform, perspectives as to whether those areas of reform may still be relevant today, and a review of areas of reform that the Legislature has started to address

Witness: William Hauck, Chairman, California Constitution Revision Commission

III. "Federal and State Models of Legislative Decision-Making" (9:30-10:00)

- Review by Karl Kurtz of the National Conference of State Legislatures Regarding Contrasting State Legislative Procedures That May Be of Interest to the Committees
- IV. Options For Addressing Pressing Issues, Increasing Bipartisanship, Conducting More Extensive Oversight, and Strengthening the Integrity of the Legislative Process (10:00-11:30)

Among the legislative branch reform issues to be addressed:

- *How can the Legislature function better? What's not working well?*
- *How can the Legislature better focus on and prioritize California's most pressing issues?*
- *How can the Legislature foster more bipartisanship?*
- *How can the Legislature enhance its oversight and investigative functions?*
- *How can the stability of the legislative branch be improved?*
- *How can the transparency and integrity of the legislative process be strengthened?*
- *How can changes to the legislative calendar improve efficiency, provide opportunities for greater oversight, and bring legislators closer to their constituents?*

Witnesses:

- Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer and former President Pro Tem of the California State Senate
- Robert Naylor, current member of "Third House" and former Republican Leader of the California State Assembly
- Bruce Cain, Executive Director of the U.C. Washington Center and former Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies of the University of California at Berkeley
- Dr. Jaime Regalado, Director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs in Los Angeles
- AG Block, UC Center at Sacramento, former Editor in Chief of the California Journal

V. Committee Member Questions of Legislative Reform Panelists (11:30-Noon)

VI. Public Comments on Legislative Branch Reform Issues (Noon-12:30 PM)

LUNCH BREAK (12:30 PM–1:15 pm)

AFTERNOON SESSION – BUDGET PROCESS REFORM DISCUSSION – "PART ONE"

- VII. "Models of State Budget Decision-Making" (1:15 PM-2:00 PM)
- Scott Pattison, Executive Director of the National Association of State Budget Officers
- VIII. "Options for Incorporating Longer-Term Planning Into Budget Decision-Making, Basing Decisions on Outcomes, Performance and Accountability, and Promoting Advanced Planning For Fiscal and Other Emergencies" (2:00-3:30 PM)

Some of the Budget Reform Issues to Be Addressed Include:

- *How can the budget process improve oversight and accountability of state agencies and more frequently result in the adoption of a balanced budget on time?*
- *Should the Legislature incorporate longer-term planning into budget decision-making?*

- *Should the Legislature consider multi-year budgeting and its impact on regular legislative business (e.g., the number of bills introduced and in which year of a two-year Session)?*
- *How can the Legislature promote advance planning for fiscal and other emergencies?*
- *What budget reform measures are pending in the Legislature?*

Witnesses:

- Fred Silva, Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor to California Forward and former Executive Secretary to the California Constitution Revision Commission
- Laura Chick, Inspector General of California, former Los Angeles City Controller
- Mac Taylor, Legislative Analyst of California

IX. Committee Member Questions of Budget Reform Panelists (3:30-4:00 PM)

X. Public Comments on Budget Reform Issues (4:00-4:30 PM)